THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Elimination of Illiteracy from Rural Areas

4671. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state what steps Central Government would take to eliminate illiteracy from the rural areas of the country and by when?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): As per provisional Census 2001 figures, the literacy rate is 65.3 per cent. For the first time since independence, the absolute number of illiterates has decreased by 31.9 millions during a decade.

The goal of National Literacy Mission is to attain full literacy i.e. sustainable threshold level of 75 per cent literacy by 2005. It seeks to achieve this goal by imparting functional literacy to non-literate in 15-35 age group.

A new approach has been adopted since 1st April, 2000 with the following features to ensure effective implementation of literacy programmes particularly in rural areas;

(i) National Literacy Mission (NLM) parameters have been revised and financial norms enhanced.

(ii) Decentralization and delegation of financial and administrative powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities (SLMAs).

(iii) The integrated Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) and Post Literacy Programmes (PLP) approach to achieve continuity, efficiency and convergence.

(iv) Under Continuing Education Programme neo literates are provided opportunities for skill development, income generating programmes and individual interest promotion programmes. Centres also work for removal of residual illiteracy.

(v) Jan Shikshan Sansthans to provide vocational and technical skills especially in rural areas.

Retention of teachers by KVS

4672. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2865 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas of Delhi region have been charge-sheeted on the basis of records which are of 'C' category and which have not been retained after the expiry of their period of retention;

(b) if so, the details of such teachers, category-wise; and

(c) the reasons and justifications, if any, for such a self-contradictory action on the part of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Damage to diamond industry in Gujarat

4673. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to the diamond industry due to the recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) what steps the Ministry has taken to minimise the damage and to restore the industry; and

(c) the diamond exports from India during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES